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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 18547-037510US  
Client Ref. No.: 3206.1

On October 19, 2004

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Eleanor J. Taylor

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

DAVID BALABAN et al.

Application No.: 09/397,494

Filed: September 15, 1999

For: COMPUTER BASED METHOD  
FOR PROVIDING A LABORATORY  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM

Examiner: Jeffrey R. West

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2857

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
Mailed May 21, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 21, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks. A petition for a two month extension of time to respond is filed herewith.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.